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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )

HIROYUKI INOUE, et al. )

Application No.: 08/796,519 )

Filed: February 7, 1997 )

For: INK CONTAINER FOR INK )  
JET PRINTING, HOLDER FOR )  
THE CONTAINER, CARRIAGE )  
FOR THE HOLDER AND )  
INK JET PRINTER )

Examiner: C. Hallacher

Group Art Unit: 2853

January 25, 2001

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to European 698,497, a copy of which is enclosed and which is listed and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

This reference was cited during prosecution a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the Examination Report from the European Patent Office is enclosed.

This application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a notice of allowance. Accordingly, this Information

Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and

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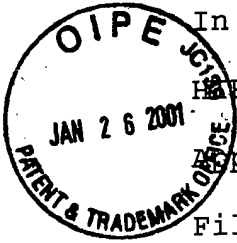
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is accompanied by the \$180.00 fee specified at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

Other documents cited in the Examination Report have been cited in the Information Disclosure Statements dated March 17, 1999 and August 28, 1998.

The concise explanation of relevance for the reference cited above is provided in the Examination Report.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All

correspondence should be directed to our below listed  
address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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